

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1 and 3, cancel claim 2 without prejudice or admission, and add new claims 4-10 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A voltage regulator comprising:

a reference voltage circuit;

a voltage source;

an output terminal from which an output voltage is outputted in accordance with a voltage of the voltage ~~source,~~
source;

a voltage dividing circuit ~~that divides~~ for dividing
the output voltage of the output terminal;

an error amplifier ~~that outputs~~ for outputting a
signal in accordance with an output of the voltage dividing
circuit and an output of the reference voltage circuit;

an output transistor ~~that is~~ connected between the
voltage source and the voltage dividing circuit and ON/OFF-
controlled in accordance with the signal outputted from the
error amplifier; and

a current adding circuit ~~that controls~~ for controlling an operating current of the error amplifier in accordance with the output voltage of the output terminal and the voltage of the voltage source by increasing the operating current of the error amplifier when the output voltage of the output terminal is higher than a predetermined value.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) An electronic device comprising the voltage regulator according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1.

4. (new) A voltage regulator according to claim 1; wherein the current adding circuit comprises a pair of bleeder resistors for dividing the output voltage, a first N-MOS transistor ON/OFF-controlled by a voltage at a connection point between the bleeder resistors, a resistor for raising a voltage in a drain of the first N-MOS transistor, an inverter to which a voltage at a connection point between the drain of the first N-MOS transistor and an end of the resistor is inputted, a second N-MOS transistor ON/OFF-controlled by an output voltage of the inverter, and a third N-MOS transistor having a gate to which a reference voltage is applied.

5. (new) A voltage regulator according to claim 1; wherein the current adding circuit controls the operating current of the error amplifier to a temporary large value only when the output voltage of the output terminal is higher than the predetermined value.

6. (new) A voltage regulator comprising:
a reference voltage circuit;
a voltage source;
an output terminal from which an output voltage is outputted in accordance with a voltage of the voltage source;
a voltage dividing circuit for dividing the output voltage of the output terminal;
an error amplifier for outputting a signal in accordance with an output of the voltage dividing circuit and an output of the reference voltage circuit; and
control means for controlling an operating current of the error amplifier to a temporary large value only in a case when the output voltage of the output terminal is higher than a predetermined value.

7. (new) A voltage regulator according to claim 6; further comprising an output transistor connected between the voltage source and the voltage dividing circuit and ON/OFF-controlled in accordance with the signal outputted from the error amplifier.

8. (new) A voltage regulator according to claim 6; wherein the control means comprises a current adding circuit having a pair of bleeder resistors for dividing the output voltage, a first N-MOS transistor ON/OFF-controlled by a voltage at a connection point between the bleeder resistors, a resistor for raising a voltage in a drain of the first N-MOS transistor, an inverter to which a voltage at a connection point between the drain of the first N-MOS transistor and an end of the resistor is inputted, a second N-MOS transistor ON/OFF-controlled by an output voltage of the inverter, and a third N-MOS transistor having a gate to which a reference voltage is applied.

9. (new) A voltage regulator according to claim 6; wherein the control means includes means for controlling, in cases other than when the output voltage of the output terminal is higher than the predetermined value, the operating current of the error amplifier to a small value to achieve a reduction in power consumption of the voltage regulator.

10. (new) An electronic device comprising the voltage regulator according to claim 6.